CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for selective discarding SS7 messages received at a receiving device, said receiving device being part of a telecommunication network, comprising:

ascertaining whether a selective message discard feature is enabled in said receiving device;

if said selective message discard is enabled, ascertaining whether a type associated with a received message at said receiving device is one of protected message types; and

if said type associated with said received message is said one of said protected message types, passing said received message to an application irrespective of an age of said received message, said age being representative of a time duration that said message has been present in said receiving device.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising

determining, if said type associated with said receive message is not said one of said protected message types, said age of said received message; and

discarding said received message if said age of said received message exceeds a predetermined threshold.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein said received message is taken from an input queue, said received message is passed onto said application if said age of said received message is determined to be less than said predetermined threshold.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising

ascertaining, prior to said ascertaining whether said selective message discard feature is enabled, whether a no-discard feature is enabled in said receiving device; and

if said no-discard feature is enabled in said receiving device, passing all said messages received at said receiving device to their respective applications without discarding.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said received message represents a SS7 Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said received message represents a SS7 NSI (American National Standards Institute) message.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said received message represents a SS7 ITU (International Telecommunications Union) message.

8. A receiving device coupled to a telecommunication network, said receiving device being configured to receive SS7 messages from a transmitting device also coupled to said telecommunication network, comprising:

    logic for ascertaining whether a selective message discard feature is enabled in said receiving device;

    logic for ascertaining, if said selective message discard is enabled, whether a type associated with a received message at said receiving device is one of protected message types; and

    logic for passing, if said type associated with said received message is said one of said protected message types, said received message to an application irrespective of an age of said received message, said age being representative of a time duration that said message has been present in said receiving device.

9. The receiving device of claim 8 further comprising

    logic for determining, if said type associated with said receive message is not said one of said protected message types, said age of said received message; and

    logic for discarding said received message if said age of said received message exceeds a predetermined threshold.

10. The receiving device of claim 9 wherein said received message is taken from an input queue, said received message is passed onto said application if said age of said received message is determined to be less than said predetermined threshold.

11. The receiving device of claim 10 further comprising

logic for ascertaining, prior to said ascertaining whether said selective message discard feature is enabled, whether a no-discard feature is enabled in said receiving device; and

logic for passing, if said no-discard feature is enabled in said receiving device, all said messages received at said receiving device to their respective applications without discarding.

12.   The receiving device of claim 11 wherein said received message represents a SS7 Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message.

13.   The receiving device of claim 11 wherein said received message represents a SS7 ANSI (American National Standards Institute) message.

14.   The receiving device of claim 11 wherein said received message represents a SS7 ITU (International Telecommunications Union) message.

15.   An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium having computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code being configured to enable selective discarding of messages received at a receiving device coupled to a telecommunication network, comprising:

code for ascertaining whether a type associated with a received message at said receiving device is one of protected message types; and

code for passing, if said type associated with said received message is said one of said protected message types, said received message to an application irrespective of an age of said received message, said age being representative of a time duration that said message has been present in said receiving device.

16.   The article of manufacture of claim 15 further comprising

code for determining, if said type associated with said receive message is not said one of said protected message types, said age of said received message; and

code for discarding said received message if said age of said received message exceeds a predetermined threshold.

17.   The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein said received message is taken from an input queue, said received message is passed onto said application if said age of said received message is determined to be less than said predetermined threshold.

18.   The article of manufacture of claim 17 further comprising

code for ascertaining, prior to said ascertaining whether said type associated with said received message at said receiving device is said one of said protected message types, whether a no-discard feature is enabled in said receiving device; and

code for passing, if said no-discard feature is enabled in said receiving device, all said messages received at said receiving device to their respective applications without discarding.

19.   The article of manufacture of claim 18 wherein said received message represents a SS7 Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message.

20.   The article of manufacture of claim 18 wherein said received message represents one of a SS7 ANSI (American National Standards Institute) message and a SS7 ITU (International Telecommunications Union) message.